



Data collection–Data sharing– Looking for dialogue!

King County's Science and Technical Support Section is responsible for collecting, analyzing, modeling, and interpreting the information that informs land use, habitat management, sewage treatment, water resources, and surface water

management decisions (see pages 3 and 4 regarding science section mission and services).

As part of the Section's new business plan, staff and management are interested in more effectively exchanging ideas, project findings and analytical techniques. There are many ways to share our data, interests, and viewpoints that can be mutually beneficial, and we would like to enhance our communications and explore these opportunities.

For example, aquatic macroinvertebrates are good indicators of stream quality and watershed health. Over the past two years, King County has worked with several jurisdictions, including Pierce and Snohomish counties and the City of Seattle, to develop a data management system dedicated to stream macroinvertebrate data. The system includes a managed data repository with a Web interface. Some features of the joint system are:

- Groups that collect data retain data ownership, with rights to edit or delete their existing data, along with the ability to add data via secured, Web-based, data stewardship controls.
- All entities that contribute data to the system agree to unlimited data sharing with other jurisdictions, state and federal agencies, tribes, public, etc.
- All data contributors will pay an annual maintenance fee.
- Data is displayed and downloadable via the Web, and housed in a SQL database.
- Web site key features: sampling site maps, downloadable raw data (taxonomic counts), standardized Integrated Taxonomic Information System codes for taxonomic identification, downloadable multiple metrics (e.g., tolerant species,) and more.
- System hardware is housed with a third party vendor.

Access the system at www.pugetsoundstreambenthos.org.

We are currently developing a contact list to begin a dialogue. If you would like to be included in these discussions and think that we may not have contact information, please call or email Tom Georgianna at tom.georgianna@kingcounty.gov, 206-263-6569.

Alternate Formats Available

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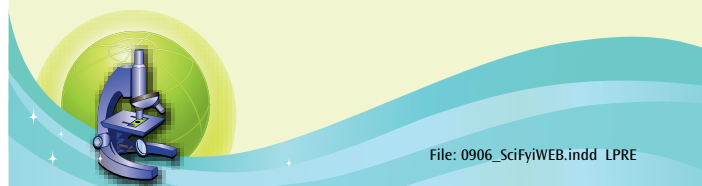
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Send questions, comments and future story ideas to:

Kate O'Laughlin - kate.olaughlin@kingcounty.gov, 206-296-8363 or
Jim Simmonds - jim.simmonds@kingcounty.gov, 206-296-1986



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